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LES PROGRÈS DE LA SCIENCE ÉCONOMIQUE DEPUIS ADAM SMITH.
Revision des Doctrines Économiques. Par MAURICE BLOCK,
membre de l'Institut. Two Vols., 8vo., pp. xii., 557, 598. Paris:
Guillaumin, 1890.

ALTHOUGH this book was in the hands of economic students for some time before the first number of the ANNALS was published, its importance is such that a brief notice, even now, is not untimely. It has the first essential of literary utility in being a work that fills what was a serious gap. Since Adam Smith published *The Wealth of Nations*, a great many economic propositions not thought of by him have been incorporated in systematic economic theory, and, at the same time, all of these later doctrines, and all of those advanced by Smith, have been subjected to prolonged and varied criticism. To restate concisely what a majority of economists would admit to be the leading and essential doctrines of the classical political economy as modified, but not destroyed, by time, and to accompany the statement by an equally concise, but virtually complete, summary of all the varied views put forth in a century on each doctrine—not in England and France only, but also in Germany, Austria, Italy, and America; and not by the "orthodox" only, but also by writers of the historical and the mathematical schools: this was a work that only a tireless scholar would have undertaken, and which, being done, puts every working economist under enduring obligation to its author. It is for the economist what an admirably prepared digest of reports would be for the lawyer, if the digest contained also an abstract of net results, systematically arranged, and the whole were written in that clear, faultless style that few but Frenchmen ever acquire. To add that the author was probably, of all men living, the one best qualified for such a task, is not, I think, extravagant praise, because in such a work the soundness of the writer's own views is of very secondary importance, while an encyclopedic knowledge of the literature of the subject and an

extraordinary power of comprehending and restating the thoughts of others are indispensable. The work is divided into an introduction, treating of method, definition, and classification, and five books, devoted respectively to fundamental notions, production, circulation, distribution, and consumption. The fundamental notions are those of wants; goods; value; reason, sentiments, and passions; egoism, altruism, economic and ethical; individualism and socialism, the individual and the State; economic laws; and the economic principle. M. Block himself, as is well known, is a "classical" economist, an individualist, and an uncompromising believer in the deductive method; but he has gotten a long way beyond the positions of Ricardo, Say, and Mill. His view of value, for example, is substantially that of the Austrians. Nowhere else can the student find so complete a *résumé* of the development of the theory of value, from Adam Smith down to the most recent writings of Austrians and Italians, as in M. Block's chapter on this topic; and the thoroughness here shown is but a fair sample of the quality of the entire treatise.

F. H. G.

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND COMPARATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL LAW. By JOHN W. BURGESS, Professor of History, Political Science, and International Law in Columbia College. Two volumes; pp. 337 and 404. Boston: Ginn & Company, 1890.

THIS is one of the works over whose appearance the student of political science may well rejoice, however one may disagree with positions and tendencies. It is no mere text-book, formulating old things in a new shape. It is no mere commentary on the Constitution of the United States, like most of the books which pretend to treat of our constitutional law. It is a systematic treatise upon the principles underlying the constitutional law of four of the leading modern nations—England, France, Germany, and the United States.

Professor Burgess has, it appears to me, made a substantial contribution to English literature upon the subject